

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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DEPT. PASS NSC FOR MR. BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: DEPARTURE STATEMENTS AND QUESTION AND ANSWER, RIYADH

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH OF REMARKS MADE
BY FORMIN PRINCE SAUD BIN FAISAL AT THE DEPARTURE OF SECRETARY
VANCE FROM RIYADH 20 FEB 1977. THE FORMIN'S REMARKS ARE
FOLLOWED BY THE RESPONSE OF SECRETARY VANCE. THE SECRETARY'S
REMARKS ARE IN TURN FOLLOWED BY A QUESTION TO THE FORMIN FROM
BARRY SCHWEID OF AP AND THE FORMIN'S RESPONSE IN ENGLISH.
END SUMMARY

FORMIN'S REMARKS: IN ESSENCE, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WAS EXPRESSING
THE APPRECIATION OF THIS VISIT (SIC). HE EXPLAINED HOW THE
DISCUSSIONS THAT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN YOU AND HIM, AND OF COURSE
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BETWEEN YOU AND HRH THE CROWN PRINCE, WERE CONDUCTED IN AN
ATMOSPHERE OF FRANKNESS AND CORDIALITY. HRH EMPHASIZED
MAINLY TWO POINTS WHICH MADE THEM, THE ARABS AND THE SAUDIS
IN PARTICULAR, OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE: ONE WAS THE FACE
THAT YOU IN THE OUTSET OF THE ADMINISTRATION WERE DISPATCHED
HERE TO SEE WITH YOUR OWN EYES AND MEET FACE TO FACE WITH THE
LEADERS OF THIS AREA; AND TWO, THE FACT THAT YOU YOURSELF

EXPRESSED THE FACT THAT AT THE CORE OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS THE PALESTINE QUESTION. WE ARE ALL AT A TURNING POINT, SAID HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, AT THIS POINT IN HISTORY. WE MUST PRESERVE, WE MUST KEEP UP OUR GOOD SPIRITS AND OPTIMISM AND WE CERTAINLY LOOK FORWARD TO COOPERATION WITH OUR FRIENDS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH NOT FINALLY, NOT AT LAST, BUT CERTAINLY AFRESH HAS EXPRESSED ITS DEDICATION TO THE PURSUIT OF PEACE IN THE AREA IN COOPERATION WITH THE LEADERS OF THE CONCERNED COUNTRIES, AND WE WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS.

SECRETARY VANCE'S REMARKS: THANK YOU VERY MUCH YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS. I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE EXTRAORDINARILY WARM RECEPTION WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME AND TO MY COLLEAGUES ON THIS VISIT TO RIYADH. WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE FRANKNESS AND THE CORDIALITY WHICH MARKED THE TALKS BETWEEN US. I LEARNED MUCH FROM THOSE FRANK CONVERSATIONS. I AGREE THAT THERE IS BASIS FOR OPTIMISM, YET AT THE SAME TIME I MUST CAUTION THAT THE ROAD AHEAD WILL BE A LONG AND DIFFICULT ONE. WE THE UNITED STATES ARE DETERMINED TO PRESERVE AND TO DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO WORK WITH THE PARTIES TO MOVE THE TALKS TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS ONE OF THE CORE QUESTIONS THAT MUST BE RESOLVED IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FINAL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEM, AND THAT ALONG WITH THE OTHER KEY ISSUES WILL BE SUBJECT OF CONTINUING DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION BETWEEN OURSELVES AND OUR GOOD FRIENDS IN SAUDI ARABIA AS WELL AS THE OTHER PARTIES. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION TO THE VISIT OF HRH CROWN PRINCE FAHD
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AT A CONVIENT TIME FOR HIM, HOPEFULLY IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH HIM IN FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSIONS OF THESE KEY ISSUES.

I WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH THE WISDOM OF THE VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS MADE BY CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND BY HRH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. AGAIN, MAY I SAY THAT IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO RENEW ASSOCIATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I LOOK FORWARD WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION TO WORKING WITH HIM AS WE PROCEED DOWN THIS ROAD IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE.

QUESTION DIRECTED TO FORMIN BY BARRY SCHWEID, AP:
MR. MINISTER, IN A BROADCAST THE WEEKEND BEFORE THE SECRETARY BEGAN HIS TRIP, YOU SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD HELD OIL PRICE INCREASES TO FIVE PERCENT IN A HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD EXERT PRESSURE, YOUR WORDS WERE, ON ISRAEL FOR THE ARAB CAUSE. NOW THAT YOU HAVE TALKED TO THE SECRETARY AND HE HAS BEEN IN

THE AREA FOR ALMOST A WEEK, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOUR
OBSERVATIONS ARE NOW ... IS THE UNITED STATES EXERTING THE KIND
OF PRESSURE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE EXERTED ON ISRAEL?

RESPONSE TO SCHWEID BY FORMIN: WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT BROADCAST
YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. I DON'T REMEMBER MAKING A BROADCAST.
IN ANY EVENT, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I SAID ABOUT THE DECISION
OF SAUDI ARABIA IN THE DOHA MEETING. OUR DECISION IN THE DOHA
MEETING WAS A COMPLETELY ECONOMIC DECISION. IN ANY CASE,
ALL THAT WE DO, OR OUR POLICIES IN ANYTHING WE DO ARE GEARED
AND ARE AIMED AT STABILITY AND IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR A
SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ONE SHOULD VIEW THE POLICIES
OF SAUDI ARABIA IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR ENTIRETY, AND NOT JUST
IN ONE ACTION. AS TO THE POLICY AS REGARDS OIL PRICES, WE HAVE
MADE IT VERY CLEAR, I THINK, OVER AND OVER AGAIN, THAT THESE
ARE NOT POLITICAL BUT ECONOMIC IN NATURE. WE ARE, AS PART OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, VERY MINDFUL OF THE HEALTH OF
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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, AND IN HOLDING THE INCREASE TO FIVE
PERCENT WE HOPE TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE THE HEALTH AND
PROSPERITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THIS IN NO WAY
DETRACTS FROM OUR HOPE AND DESIRE THAT THE UNITED STATES
BE INSTRUMENTAL IN ACHIEVING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE
DECISION OF OPEC IS NOT LINKED TO THAT, BUT IT DOES NOT
DETRACT FROM THE FACT THAT WE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES
WOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN THIS AREA.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
GNEHM

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